

**Completion of pending irrigation projects in Orissa**

3019. SHRI B. J. PANDA:

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that water is the most critical input for agriculture and irrigation projects are critical for the growth and development of the country's agriculture;

(b) whether despite the above, large number of river-valley projects both multipurpose and for irrigation, have spilled over from plan to plan;

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to speed-up completion of the pending projects; and

(d) what is the total number of such pending irrigation awaiting Central help in Orissa and what is the action plan to speed up funding of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Irrigation being a state subject, irrigation projects are conceived, planned and implemented by the State Governments as per their own priority. However, with a view to expedite the completion of on-going projects, Government of India provides central assistance to the State Governments under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).

(d) The assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme is provided to the States from time to time on the basis of the proposals submitted by State Government on year to year basis. So far, an amount of about Rs 1074 crore has been released to Government of Orissa under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme in respect of 17 major and medium irrigation projects and a number of minor irrigation schemes.